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This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to US Provisional Application Serial No. 60/090,028, filed June 19, 1998, and is related to US Patent Application No. 09/237,128, filed January 25, 1999, and entitled "NETWORK PACKET FORWARDING LOOKUP WITH A REDUCED NUMBER OF MEMORY ACCESSES," US Patent Application No. 09/336,090, filed June 18, 1999, and entitled "AN INTERCONNECT NETWORK FOR OPERATION WITHIN A COMMUNICATION NODE," US Patent Application No. 09/336,311, filed June 18, 1999, and entitled "A QUALITY OF SERVICE FACILITY IN A DEVICE FOR PERFORMING IP FORWARDING AND ATM SWITCHING," and US Patent Application No. 09/335,947, filed June 18, 1999, and entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENCAPSULATING/DECAPSULATING DATA ON A PER CHANNEL BASIS IN HARDWARE". The entire contents of each of said application is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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The line cards 53 may have SONET multiplexers, such as multiplexers 50 and 52 positioned at the input of the input ports for the line cards to multiplex the incoming tributary data streams into OC-48 data streams. In the example depicted in Figure 4, SONET multiplexer 50 multiplexes 4 OC-12 data streams into an OC-48 data stream. Control processor 65 oversees operation of the line cards and 53, 55, 57 and 59 interconnect 62. Demultiplexers 50 and 52 are positioned at the feeds into the output